

sixty cannoneers, and more troops were expected; the ministry were *well assured*^b that notwithstanding this mighty warlike preparation, he could not learn that they were taking any steps to *encrease* their *shipping* at *Calais*, which at that time was very considerable: that the *pretended* flat-bottomed boats were only *pontoons* of a new constructionⁱ, made easy for stowage in a ship: that the reports of the arrival of flat-bottomed boats at *Dunkirk* and *Calais* were *false*^k, there being only forty-eight vessels of different sizes and nations in those ports: that part of the troops assembling were designed to embark for *Canada*^l: that an expedition against *England* could not be near at hand, because there must be time for the arrival of artillery^m: and that there could be *no trust* given to the *French* reportsⁿ: that the bombs, &c. arrived at *Calais* were laid up^o; the talk of an invasion diminished and discouraged by the court; and that since the requisition of the *Hessians* and *Dutch*, and other wise measures taken by the *British* court, persons of rank, who expected to be employed in that expedition, grew every day more uneasy, and doubtful whether it would be attempted^p: that there were on the 7th of *March* no more fishing boats at

^b See Mr. *Barnham's* letter to Mr. *Amyand*, *March* 10th, received *March* 11th.

ⁱ Letter to Lord *Holdernefs*, *March* 7th.

^k *Ibid.*

^l *Ibid.* *March* 9th.

^m *Ibid.* *March* 14th and 15th.

ⁿ *Ibid.* *March* 18th.

^o *Ibid.*

^p *Ibid.* *March* 1st.